

Reference Committee Staff Report



To	Infrastructure and Community Investment Committee
Subject	AAA U18 Dressing Room Agreement
Date	March 4, 2026
Ward	All
From	K. Datema, Director Recreation & Culture Services
Executive Member Approval	J. Schmidt, General Manager Community & Corporate Services
CAO Approval	M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer
Staff Report #	CCS-006-2026

Recommendation(s):

1. That the Director of Recreation and Culture Services and/or their designate be authorized to execute the facility use agreement attached as Appendix "A" to the Report to Infrastructure and Community Investment CCS-006-2026 with the Barrie Colts AAA U18 hockey team to utilize a semi-exclusive team dressing room at the Peggy Hill Team Community Centre.

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform committee that the initial 3-year pilot program relating to the Barrie Colts AAA U18 hockey teams' semi-exclusive use of dressing room "A" on rink one at Peggy Hill Team Community Centre is due to expire March 31, 2026. Staff are reporting back on the status of the pilot and requesting approval to execute a new agreement that will begin September 1, 2026.

Key Findings:

The 3-year semi-exclusive pilot was predicated on the following and this will continue in the new 3-year agreement:

- **The team utilizes dressing room "A" on rink one at the Peggy Hill Team Community Centre**, and this is the facility where the semi-exclusive dressing room will be provided for the team once again. To that end the Barrie Colts AAA U18 organization would like to re-enter into a facility use agreement with the City for the seasonal rental of the space during the ice season which is 7 months in duration.
- **The facility use agreement will be a three (3) year term** effective September 1, 2026, and expiring March 31, 2029.

- **Under the proposed agreement, the City of Barrie would have use of the room as required** for tournaments and other needs provided notice is issued to the Barrie Colts AAA U18 in advance so they can vacate the room temporarily. This is defined as semi-exclusive whereby the U18 AAA will make the dedicated room available to the City as required.
- **The Barrie Colts U18 AAA agrees that any alterations to the dressing room area will be submitted to the City for approval.** The City agrees to respond in a reasonable time frame with comment as to the approval or not of the requested alteration. The cost for alterations will be the responsibility of the AAA organization.

Financial Implications:

The team utilizes the semi-exclusive dressing room 7 months per hockey season and pays \$1,000 per month or \$7,000 per hockey season. The fee will increase 2% annually. The proposed agreement is another 3-year term with seasonal revenues as follows:

Season 1 - \$7,000
 Season 2 - \$7,140
 Season 3 - \$7,282.80

Alternatives:

The following alternatives are available for consideration by Committee:

Alternative #1 – Committee could maintain the existing policy with respect to dressing room allocation on an as needed basis.

This alternative is not recommended as it would not address the request from the team and could negatively impact the team in relation to recruitment, retention and the success achieved during the initial 3-year pilot.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Affordable Place to Live		
Community Safety		
Thriving Community	X	Creates and fosters the opportunity for young athletes in Barrie to pursue their goals and promote civic pride through team success.
Infrastructure Investments		
Responsible Governance		

Additional Background Information and Analysis:

The initial 3-year semi-exclusive pilot has proven to be successful; the team has provided the following review:

Over the last 3 years, we have seen the positive impact the changeroom has had on our program, beginning with the recruiting process. As majority of U18 AAA teams across Ontario now have their own changerooms, it has allowed us to recruit players, who may have otherwise went elsewhere for the experience/opportunity. This year we have 5 of the top players in Ontario on our team and 10 OHL draft picks, who specifically chose to play their U18 AAA year and make the move to Barrie – this after meeting with our coaching staff in the changeroom and discussing our program. The reality is, it is a huge selling feature for these players and something that has almost become expected of the top programs.

Being able to recruit such high-quality players, has allowed us to have great success on the ice these last 3 years. We have been to the Ontario Minor Hockey Association Championship each year and have had a player drafted to the OHL in the U18 Draft, each year we've been with the program. Last year, we saw 2 players drafted from our program – an incredible feat as there are only 32-36 players typically selected from Canada/USA in the U18 Draft. One of these selections was to our hometown Barrie OHL Colts, which was a dream for our program and further solidified our connection with them.

We continue to see the OHL Barrie Colts send their draft picks to Barrie U18 AAA, a great steppingstone to the next level of Junior/OHL. Our changeroom and program are key selling points, when they are talking to their draft picks about playing here. Many of these players are from out of town and here billeting, so the changeroom allows them to have a space that feels familiar and a place to store their gear, so it's not being transported back and forth as they find their way. We have 3 former Barrie U18 AAA players who are now playing with the OHL Barrie Colts and 3 others playing for other teams in the OHL – something we are incredibly proud of.

Consultation and Engagement:

While public consultation was not engaged as part of the 3-year pilot or the proposed extension, staff have consulted with the Barrie Colts AAA President and associated team personnel.

Environmental and Climate Change Impact Matters:

There are no environmental and/or climate change impact matters related to the recommendation.

Appendix:

Appendix A – Facility Use Agreement Barrie Colts AAA U18

Report Author:

K. Datema, Director Recreation & Culture Services

File #:

Not Applicable

Pending #:

Not Applicable